

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-11 are pending in the above-identified application. New claim 11 has been added.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-10 have been amended to be more clear.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being unpatentable over Okuda. Claim 1 is amended to include,

... wherein, the stator cam includes...

... **a first inclined plane formed on a side wall** of at least one of the first tilting portion and the flat stator portion; and

... wherein, the rotor cam includes...

...**a second inclined plane formed on a side wall** of the projecting rotor portion; and

wherein friction between the stator cam and the rotor cam is greater (a) when the first inclined plane and the second inclined plane are in contact with each other than (b) when the first inclined plane and the second inclined plane are not in contact with each other.

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 20-26, page 9, lines 19-27 and page 10, lines 14-25 and Figs. 1 and 3A-3C. With regard to claim 1, Okuda does not disclose or suggest, "**a first inclined plane formed on a side wall** of at least one of the first tilting portion and the flat stator portion..." or "...**a second inclined plane formed on a side wall** of the projecting rotor portion..." Further, Okuda does not disclose or suggest, "...wherein friction between the stator cam and the rotor cam is greater (a) when the first inclined plane and the second inclined plane are in contact with each other than (b) when the first inclined plane and the second inclined plane are not in contact with each other."

Okuda includes a main body drive member 44 (stator) having a cam face 61. The cam face 61 includes slopes 66 and 67 at opposite sides of a ridge 65. (Col. 8,

lines 17-24 and Figs. 5 and 6). The cam face 61 does not, however, include "**an inclined plane formed on a side wall**" of slopes 66 and 67 or ridge 65. Thus, Okuda does not disclose a stator that includes, "...**a first inclined plane formed on a side wall** of at least one of the first tilting portion and the flat stator portion."

Okuda also includes a closure drive member 44 (rotor) having a cam face 6. The cam face 6 includes slopes 63 and 64 at opposite sides of a ridge 62. (Col. 8, lines 10-17 and Figs. 5 and 6). The cam face 6 does not, however, include "**a second inclined plane formed on a side wall**" of slopes 66 and 67 or ridge 65. Thus, Okuda does not disclose a rotor that includes, "...**a second inclined plane formed on a side wall** of the projecting rotor portion."

The exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention includes a stator 21 having a stator cam 22 and a rotor 23 having a rotor cam 24. (Figs. 1 and 3A-3C). The stator cam 22 includes "...a first inclined plane (22E or 22F) formed on a side wall of at least one of the first tilting portion 22B and the flat stator portion 22F." (Fig. 3A). The rotor cam 24 also includes "...a second inclined plane 24A formed on a side wall of the tip 25 of the projecting rotor portion. (Fig. 3A). Further, "...the friction between the stator cam 22 and the rotor cam 24 is greater (a) when the first inclined plane (22E or 22F) and the second inclined plane 24A are in contact with each other than (b) when the first inclined plane (22E or 22F) and the second inclined plane 24A are not in contact with each other." (Page 8, lines 20-26, page 9, lines 19-27 and page 10, lines 14-25). Thus, Okuda does not disclose the features of claim 1. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-5 are also allowable in view of their dependency on an allowable claim.

Applicant's claimed features are advantageous over the prior art because the opening and closing states can be secured when shocks are applied to housing 13. (Page 8, line 26 to page 9, line 1 and page 10, lines 19 and 20. Further, a nimble opening and closing can be performed with a small load. (Page 10, lines 23-25).

Claims 1-3, 6 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being unpatentable over Jung. Jung includes a hinge shaft 40 (stator) having a protrusion 42. The hinge shaft 40 does not, however, include "**an inclined plane formed on a**

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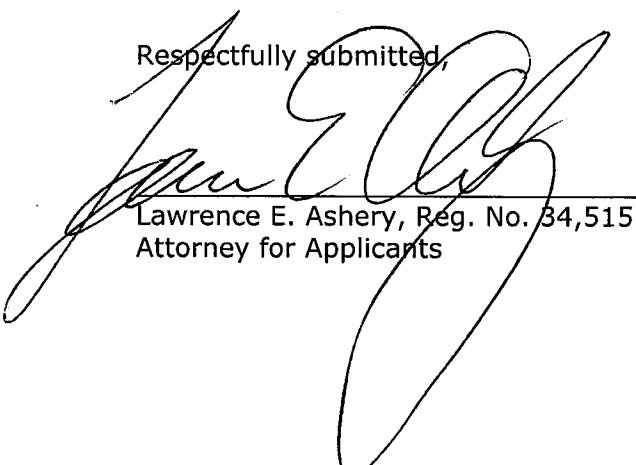
side wall" of protrusion 42. Thus, Jung does not disclose a stator that includes, "...**a first inclined plane formed on a side wall** of at least one of the first tilting portion and the flat stator portion."

Jung also includes a cam hinge 50 (rotor) having an indent 51a and a protrusion 51b. (Fig. 5). The cam hinge 50 does not, however, include "**a second inclined plane formed on a side wall**" of either indent 51a or protrusion 51b. Thus, Jung also does not disclose a rotor that includes, "...**a second inclined plane formed on a side wall** of the projecting rotor portion." Thus, Jung also does not disclose or suggest, "...wherein friction between the stator cam and the rotor cam is greater (a) when the first inclined plane and the second inclined plane are in contact with each other than (b) when the first inclined plane and the second inclined plane are not in contact with each other."

New claim 11 has been added. Basis for new claim 11 may be found in the specification, for example, at Figs. 1 and 3A-3C and original claims 1-3.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/DFD/dmw

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

137585